

## Mike McCall: What is TXU doing for Texas?

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I have the opportunity to talk with many customers, business executives, lawmakers and educators from across the nation. Often they will ask me: "What about the environment?"

It's a simple question, but the term "environment" means something different to each of us. To some, environment means water quality, while to others it means air quality, and still to others it means land conservation. Because of the nature of our business, at TXU it's all of those things and more.

A lot has been said over the past few months about TXU and the environment. But what seems to be overlooked is the company's day-to-day commitment to the environment – including air, water and land – and our own personal challenge to get better.

As ironic as it may sound, one way we help the environment is to provide our customers ways to use less of our product. If everyone uses less electricity, less needs to be produced and fewer emissions are created. TXU Energy's online Home Energy Advisor, for example, helps customers find ways to reduce their electricity consumption.

We also know that cars are the biggest contributor to ozone in the state. TXU subsidizes employees' use of mass transit, and we have been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as one of the few companies in the nation qualifying for "Best Workplaces for Commuters" designation. In addition, earlier this year, we sponsored a free ride day on DART and The T. Through our relationship with these agencies, we understand that sometimes people just need a free opportunity to try mass transit to begin using it every day.

TXU sponsors the largest urban tree farm in the United States. Technology doesn't exist to capture the millions of tons of carbon dioxide produced every day by cars and manufacturing, but trees can mitigate those CO<sub>2</sub> emissions until the technology does exist.

Through its tree farm sponsorship and mining operation, TXU planted more than 1 million trees across North Texas last year and more than 23 million trees since the program's inception. Those trees, plus efficiency initiatives in place at TXU plants, enabled the company to reduce, avoid or sequester the equivalent of nearly 290 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> – again, one of the largest individual efforts in the nation.

Critics have ignored these efforts and focused on our proposed power plants. A lot of rhetoric has flowed, but here are a few facts about TXU's commitment to the many facets of the environment:

- TXU has volunteered to completely offset 100 percent of the key emissions from the new plants, plus decrease total key emissions by 20 percent from 2005 levels. That's like doubling the number of people in your household but reducing your monthly expenses by 20 percent.

- TXU asked state regulators to make this commitment legally binding, which means every new generation unit built in

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Texas in the future must match or exceed the 100 percent offset plus 20 percent reduction commitment. The result is that every year, Texas' air will get cleaner.

- TXU Renew, our renewable energy company, will double TXU's renewable energy over the next five years. Already, TXU is the fifth-largest purchaser of wind energy in the U.S. and the largest in Texas.
- TXU will invest \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in next-generation clean power technology.

A commitment to the environment is more than what's being done to reduce a particular emission or one specific effort; it's multidimensional. Just as a commitment to meeting the reliable power needs of the state is multidimensional.

TXU has a plan that lowers wholesale prices an estimated \$1.7 billion annually, creates thousands of jobs, reduces key emissions of the company's power plants by 20 percent and meets the state's growing need for reliable power as more people call Texas home.

We're proud of our plan, and we've had dozens of business, education and community leaders – as well as mayors and elected officials – across the state applaud the comprehensive nature of it.

It's the right plan.

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